

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of remarks herewith.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 8-13 are pending. Claims 8, 12 and 13, which are independent, are hereby amended. No new matter has been added. Support for this amendment is provided throughout the Specification as originally filed and specifically on pages 22-23 and (paragraphs [0078] and [0083] of the published application). Claim 14 is hereby canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §101

Claim 14 is hereby canceled, thereby obviating the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §101.

III. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 8-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by JP 2000-276851 to Hirofumi (hereinafter, merely "Hirofumi").

IV. RESPONSE TO REJECTIONS

Claim 8 recites, *inter alia*:

“...determination means for determining whether or not the first part of the first table includes a next unit recording area address,

wherein, when the first part of the first table does not include the next unit recording area address, a second part of the first table including the next unit recording area address is copied from the information recording medium, and the second part of the first table is stored on the storage means...” (Emphasis added)

Applicants submit that Hirofumi fails to teach or disclose the above discussed feature of claim 8. Specifically, Hirofumi does not teach or suggest determination means for determining whether or not the first part of the first table includes a next unit recording area address, and when the first part of the first table does not include the next unit recording area address, a second part of the first table including the next unit recording area address is copied from the information recording medium, and the second part of the first table is stored on the storage means, as recited in claim 8.

Specifically, the Office Action asserts that Hirofumi teaches recorded management data and digital coding compression data are read from a nonvolatile memory card, and refers to paragraph [0020]. However, Applicants submit that in the present invention, when the size of the FAT recorded on the information recording medium 8 is larger than that of the work DRAM 6, a partial FAT is copied into the work DRAM 6 (see, Specification, page 16, paragraph [0058]), and paragraphs [0078] and [0083], which describe the playback pre-processing in Fig. 9, are reproduced below:

[0078] In step S7, the CPU 1 determines whether or not the FAT address corresponding to the next cluster address recorded in the

process of step S5 exists in the partial FAT of the work DRAM 6. When it is determined that the FAT address corresponding to the next cluster address exists in the partial FAT of the work DAM6, the process returns to step S4, and processing of step S4 and subsequent steps is performed again. Conversely, when it is determined that the FAT address corresponding to the next cluster address does not exist in the partial FAT of the work DRAM 6, the process proceeds to step S8.

[0083] In step S8, the CPU 1 controls the reading section 9 in order to copy, to the work DRAM 6 from the information recording medium 8, the partial FAT containing the FAT address corresponding to the next cluster address. In this case, it is assumed that the partial FAT that contains the FAT addresses 110 to 119 and that does not contain the FAT address 320 and subsequent addresses is copied.

Thus, nothing has been found in Hirofumi that would teach or suggest determination means for determining whether or not the first part of the first table includes a next unit recording area address, and when the first part of the first table does not include the next unit recording area address, a second part of the first table including the next unit recording area address is copied from the information recording medium, and the second part of the first table is stored on the storage means, as recited in claim 8.

Therefore, Applicants submit that independent claim 8 is patentable.

For reasons similar to, or somewhat similar to, those described above with regard to independent claim 8, independent claims 12-14 are also patentable.

V. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims are dependent from an independent claim, discussed above, and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is

also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

Similarly, because Applicants maintain that all claims are allowable for at least the reasons presented hereinabove, in the interests of brevity, this response does not comment on each and every comment made by the Examiner in the Office Action. This should not be taken as acquiescence of the substance of those comments, and Applicants reserve the right to address such comments.

CONCLUSION

In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of the statements appearing above with respect to the disclosures in the cited reference, or references, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate the portion, or portions, of the reference, or references, providing the basis for a contrary view.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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